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Obituary Notice.

Sir William Turner, K.C.B., etc.

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MDCCCCXVII.

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Sir William Turner, K.C.B., D.L., M.B.Lond., F.R.C.S.S.L. and E., LL.D.,
D.C.L., D.Sc., F.R.S.S.L. and E., Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Edinburgh, Honorary Burgess of the City of
Edinburgh. By Sir James A. Russell. (With One Plate.)

(Read at the Meeting on May 1, 1916.)

At the eighth Ordinary Meeting the President, Dr Horne, gave utterance to the sorrow with which the Fellows heard the news of the death of Sir William Turner, K.C.B., and expressed the Society's high appreciation of the services which Sir William rendered to it. Indeed, his devotion to its interests was one of the striking features of his distinguished career.

Throughout his long life Sir William had been free from serious illness, and conserved his physical and mental powers to the last. He was cut off by a short illness in the midst of work, at the age of 84, on 15th February 1916. We recall his sturdy frame and rapid walk, his twinkling eyes, strong voice, and dominant personality, his dignity, invariable courtesy, cheerfulness, fund of humour, wonderful memory, and cautious, judicious mind. He was a man of the highest talent, eminently sane and workable, and absolutely free from the want of balance which is not unfrequently associated with genius. Those who had to work with him will always remember his high sense of the importance of work, and his devotion to duty. He possessed extraordinary powers of steady work and an unwearied patience that endeared him to slow or stupid students in his early days, and that later amazed his colleagues on the University Court when he zealously pursued the true inwardness of the dreary details of a University ordinance or hunted the last sixpence in University accounts long after the interest of the others had flagged. When working jointly with an assistant he undertook the heaviest or most disagreeable part of the task himself. His self-control was admirable. He once said to the writer, "If my digestion is in order I defy any man to make me lose my temper." With these qualities Sir William was a tolerant and sincere Christian gentleman. He was a member of St John's Episcopal Church for about sixty years, and served on its vestry for many years. At the same time he attended and took part in University and students' services of the Presbyterian Churches.

In 1863 he married Agnes, eldest daughter of Mr Abraham Logan of Burnhouses, Berwickshire, and this union did much to attach his affec-

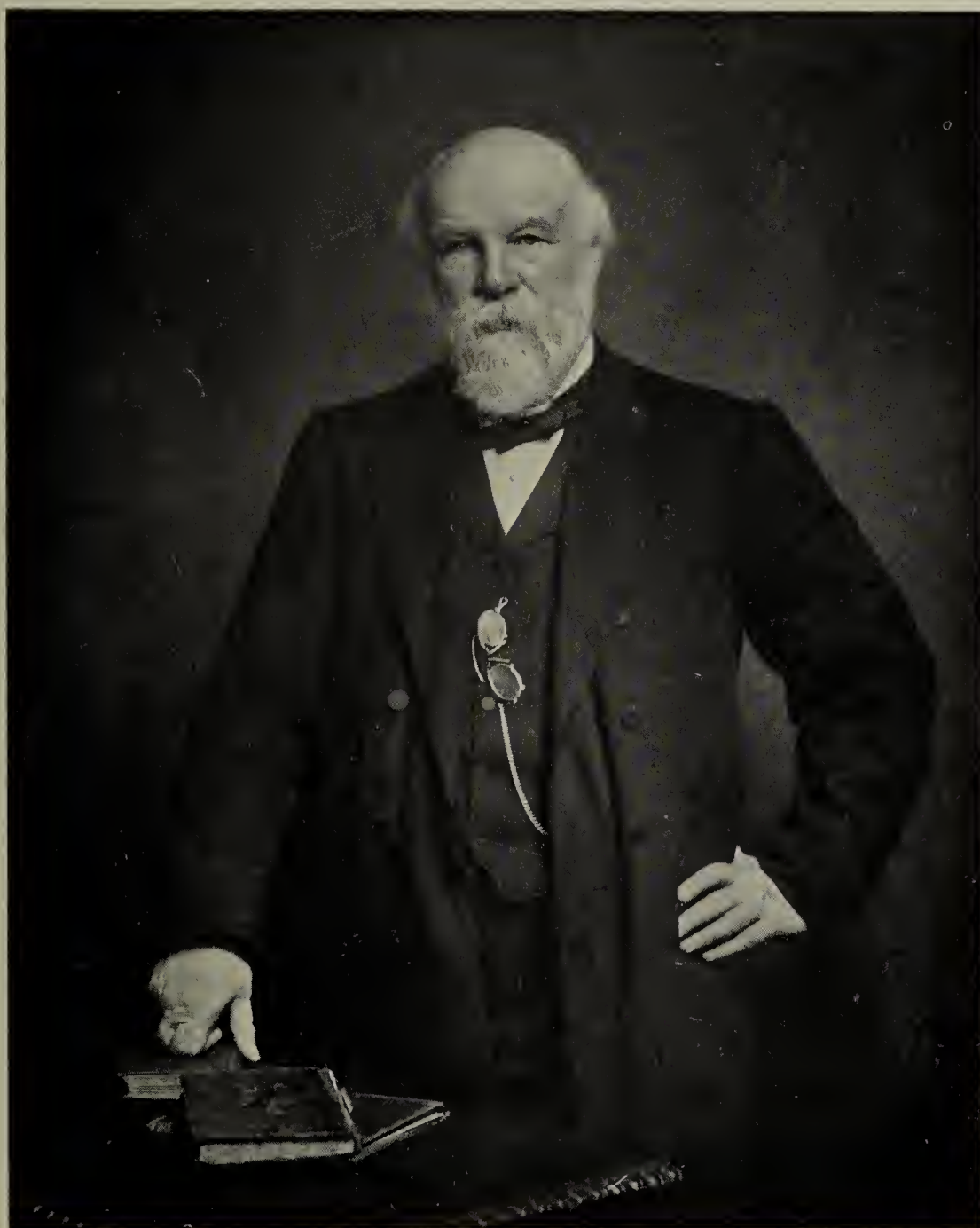


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PRINCIPAL SIR WILLIAM TURNER.

tions to Scotland. Lady Turner died in 1908. They had a family of three sons and two daughters, all of whom survive.

He was tenacious of his rights, both public and private, and expressed great indignation when the services of a gamekeeper were offered on behalf of the proprietor to "show him the way" along an old drove road through a deer forest. Turner would not accept the semblance of permission when he claimed a right. Turner had a hearty laugh, and could find interest and amusement in little things. No boy of the party laughed more at the antics of a goose in its vain endeavours to capture a small trout in the River Earn. He was an omnivorous reader, and this, with his sense of humour and retentive memory, made his conversation most interesting. He became a member of the Royal Society Club in 1869, and it is needless to say that his genial presence was much appreciated at the dinners. Turner always showed appreciation of the games and exercises in which students indulged, and yet he did not apply himself to golf or other form of sport. His exercise he got from walking, often taking a roundabout way to the University for the sake of the walk. Boating was also a favourite form of amusement when he lived at the seaside.

He was an enthusiastic Volunteer, being one of the original members of the University Company of Volunteers in 1859. At first the Government did not even furnish rifles, and later, when grants were made, the privates of No. 4 Q.E.R.V.B. had to pay regular subscriptions. Lieutenant Turner's superior officers, the stern Captain Sir Robert Christison, Bart., and the alert Surgeon-Major Sir Douglas Maclagan, gave him the proper training in military discipline. He was promoted to be Major, and finally retired, after thirty-one years' service, as Lieut.-Colonel, Queen's Rifle Volunteer Brigade, Royal Scots, 1889-90, V.D. Only a fortnight before his death he took part in the Officers' Training Corps service in St Giles' Cathedral.

During the period of his activity as demonstrator and Professor he devoted little time to luncheon. It consisted of some sandwiches—to which Lady Turner later made him add a cup of extract of beef in hot water—taken in his private room after lecture at two o'clock while interviewing assistants, students, or other visitors: a very frugal refreshment, which caused the loss of no time and did not lead to relaxation of effort in the afternoon. He did not smoke, but did not object to the use of tobacco by others.

He was noted for shrewdness and insight, and many took advantage of his wise counsel in difficulty or when considering their future course. Former students, and especially former assistants, were supported by him with all the energy and influence that he possessed when they were

applicants for chairs or other posts. No exertions were too great for him in such a case.

Turner always had great enjoyment in fine scenery, and when demonstrator spoke with enthusiasm of Bellagio and the Italian lakes. Later he was carried away by the delights of a driving tour in fine weather, far from the madding crowd, in the north-west of Scotland, and of motor tours in England, when he gathered all that he could learn of the Romans or others who used the open way in past times. Travel on the Continent with members of his family was his chief relaxation in later years, and then he enjoyed cathedrals and other fine or historical buildings to the full. He also visited Canada and the United States.

Turner was thoroughly loyal to the city of his adoption, of which he was a deputy-lieutenant, and no one was more ready to obey the call of the Lord Provost for advice or assistance. Honours that many accepted as mere compliments were to him occasions for the discharge of duty. At the time of his death he was a Vice-President of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, and the chairman of directors acknowledged his services and readiness to make speeches on behalf of the institution when required. He served on the board of Donaldson's Hospital for many years, and was seldom absent from a committee meeting. Sir William Turner was Honorary Professor of Anatomy to the Royal Scottish Academy, an office which he held from 1878. He showed his interest by visits to the life school and in other ways. How he found time for all his many-sided activities can only be explained by his orderly mind, punctuality, and diligence, supported by a very happy home life.

On 7th August 1913 a mural tablet was unveiled, with appropriate speeches, in Sir William Turner's presence, to mark the site of the house in Lancaster in which he was born on 7th January 1832. Afterwards, in the Town Hall, Mr H. L. Storey presented to the Corporation a portrait of his father, the late Sir Thomas Storey four times Mayor of Lancaster, and Sir William Turner delivered an address in appreciation of his old friend. Sir Richard Owen, likewise a native of Lancaster, was born some twenty-eight years before Turner.

Turner's mother, who was Miss Aldren before marriage, lost her husband, William Turner, when he was forty years old and her son William was five. There were another son and daughter who died young. She apprenticed William to Christopher Johnson, surgeon, who gave him a liking for chemistry. Evidently the lad was a diligent apprentice if ignorant of modern views of infection, for he was busy with pestle and mortar pounding drugs for pills while his hands were desquamating after scarlet fever!

When Turner had to choose a medical school he followed Owen's steps to St Bartholomew's Hospital, and there became intimate with his fellow-student George Rolleston, afterwards Linacre Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Oxford. He also made the acquaintance of Sir James Paget, of whose character and attainments he ever after spoke with admiration. As a student Turner delighted in the theatre, for which he showed little inclination after he came to Edinburgh. He was a distinguished student, holding a scholarship, and worked for about a year in the chemical laboratory in addition to attending lectures and the practical class taken by the ordinary medical student. John Stenhouse, LL.D., F.R.S., his Professor of Chemistry, writing to Turner when candidate for the Chair of Anatomy in 1867, said: "I may state that Dr Rolleston, now Linacre Professor at Oxford, and yourself were by far the ablest and most promising pupils I had during the seven years I held the Professorship at St Bartholomew's." At a lecture, 2nd March 1855, at the Royal Institution, on the economical application of charcoal to sanitary purposes, Dr Stenhouse stated that the charcoal that had been in contact with two dead dogs had been examined by his pupil Mr Turner. Turner's paper, communicated by Sir James Paget, F.R.S. (received 18th May 1854), on examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid, and appearing in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, was a purely chemical investigation of fluid from a case of spina bifida treated by Sir James Paget. Even so late as 1861 he communicated a chemical paper, "On the Properties of the Secretion of the Human Pancreas," to the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, and one, "On the Mode of Elimination of the Metal Manganese when employed Medically," to the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for April—showing that he had not yet abandoned his test tubes.

Turner told the writer that his intention as a student was to take to chemistry, and that he counted on winning a chemical scholarship by examination, but that a question was set on agricultural chemistry and he was beaten by the son of a farmer. Without the money and the prestige of this scholarship he felt that he could not set up as a chemist. While under this check the illustrious anatomical philosopher Goodsir appeared and took him to become an anatomist, and so changed the direction of his life. Professor Goodsir, the premier anatomist of his day, had gone to the Riviera on leave of absence from the University of Edinburgh for his health, while his class was taken by Dr Struthers, lecturer on anatomy in the Edinburgh Extramural School. When he returned in 1854 he found that he had no demonstrators. In these circumstances he proceeded to London to consult his old friend Professor Sharpey of University College,

who with Sir William Ferguson of King's and Sir James Paget of St Bartholomew's found three young surgeons willing to come to Edinburgh. They were Frederick W. Sayer, who died of fever after a short period of service in Edinburgh; A. M. Edwards, who had already a year's experience as a demonstrator of anatomy; and William Turner, M.R.C.S. 1853. After serving for a few years in the dissecting-room, Edwards entered on a brilliant surgical career in Edinburgh that ended obscurely in Australia. Goodsir sent for Turner to his hotel and asked him how he would describe Scarpa's triangle (a favourite test question). Turner indicated how he would set about it, and Goodsir promptly appointed him to be senior demonstrator. Turner might have been less surprised at Goodsir's quickness had he known of Sir James Paget's letters of recommendation.

Turner came to Edinburgh in the autumn of 1854 to spend what he called the most miserable winter of his life, owing to his lack of experience in lecturing on anatomy. It must be remembered that Turner was at this time himself a student with examinations to pass. He only took his M.B. Lond. in 1857. He had a gold medal and honours in chemistry in 1854.

Turner's duties as senior demonstrator consisted (1) in giving a daily demonstration or lecture on topographical anatomy at 4 p.m., in which he also explained the relation of a knowledge of the parts described to the practice of medicine and surgery; (2) in giving a course of demonstrations on microscopic anatomy; (3) in superintending the work of the dissecting-room; (4) and also, in summer, in giving a course of advanced lectures on some special department of anatomy. Goodsir himself gave the formal scientific lecture at one o'clock, when the facts of human anatomy were illustrated from comparative anatomy or other sciences. The students paid a fee for the four o'clock demonstration, but received no credit from the University for their attendance, as it was not compulsory; and yet the room was always filled.

As Goodsir's health gradually failed he transferred more and more of the duties of the chair to Turner, who had gained his full confidence and highest esteem. After thirteen years' service as demonstrator, Turner was appointed to the Chair of Anatomy in 1867 on Goodsir's death, and held the appointment for thirty-six years until he became Principal in 1903. While demonstrator he had several notable juniors, among them H. S. Wilson, John Cleland, Joseph Bell, Thomas Annandale, Ramsay H. Traquair, John Chiene. Of these, Emeritus-Professor Cleland of Glasgow, upon whom Goodsir's mantle as a philosophical anatomist chiefly fell, and Emeritus-Professor Chiene, C.B., of the Chair of Surgery at Edinburgh, alone survive.

His accession to the chair made little difference to the teaching arrangements, except that the senior demonstrator had to give the four o'clock lectures on topographical anatomy alternately with the professor.¹

The quality of Turner's teaching of anatomy has been attested not only by many hundreds of pupils, but shown by the number of former assistants who became professors of anatomy. The list includes the late Morrison Watson of Manchester (who married a sister of Lady Turner); Watson's successor at Manchester, the late Alfred Harry Young; the late Daniel John Cunningham, Dublin, and Turner's own successor at Edinburgh; the late John Halliday Scott, of Otago, N.Z.; Johnson Symington, Belfast; Arthur Thomson, Oxford; David Hepburn, Cardiff; Arthur Robinson, King's College, London, and Birmingham, who succeeded Cunningham at Edinburgh; A. M. Paterson, Liverpool; J. T. Wilson, Sydney; Robert Howden, University of Durham; J. C. Lamont, Lahore and University College, Dundee; T. H. Bryce, University of Glasgow; James Musgrove, St Andrews, retired and now succeeded by David Waterston; Alexander Primrose, formerly anatomy, now surgery, Toronto; Richard J. A. Berry, Melbourne.

Turner's incomparable success as a lecturer on anatomy was partly due to the natural gifts of a strong, distinct voice, splendid memory, and earnest emphatic style, so that the students were listening to very clear thoughts put into very clear words. The effect of his style was enhanced by the little-known fact that he usually suffered from stage fright for some minutes before he faced the big one o'clock class. Much, however, was due to preparation. Every statement was carefully arranged to come in the proper order of logical sequence, and side lines of thought that might confuse were rigorously eschewed, however tempting. Then the lectures were in proper perspective and adapted to the audience. Points of scientific or practical interest were always mentioned, but ordinary students were not bored with an excess of detail or with too much advanced anatomy, which was administered to the *élite* in special courses. The precaution was also taken of refreshing the memory of the audience with a *résumé* or summary of the previous lecture, or of facts supposed to be known already. Suppose that Turner had to address a medical audience on new points in the anatomy of the brain, he assumed that their recollection of the more

¹ When Turner became Professor in 1867 he appointed John Chiene to be senior demonstrator. Chiene began teaching surgery in 1870, and was succeeded as senior demonstrator by the late Morrison Watson, who became Professor of Anatomy at Manchester in 1874. The writer, who was appointed Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland in February 1881, and, like Chiene and Watson, was one of Goodsir's pupils, succeeded Watson as senior demonstrator, but resigned this office in 1876, when the direct connection with Goodsir was broken by the appointment of Daniel John Cunningham.

elementary anatomy of the organ had become dim, and would spend the first quarter of an hour or so in running over points supposed to be known already, before embarking upon what was new. With all this there was some attraction in his style that defies analysis; and assistants such as Morrison Watson, D. J. Cunningham, or A. H. Young (who became professors) would sometimes steal behind the screen that cut off the back of the classroom to listen with admiration, at the four o'clock demonstration, to the exposition of the anatomy of femoral hernia or some other favourite topic.

The lectures were always effectively mounted with diagrams, preparations, and fresh dissections. In such large classes it was usually easy to find two prosectors for the one o'clock lecture-class and other two for the four o'clock demonstration. One of the prosectors for the lecture-class, the late Dr James Foulis, deserves special mention, for he was Turner's chief assistant in dissecting the Longniddry whale, and was acknowledged to be the best dissector seen in the Edinburgh School for a generation. In preparing a fresh dissection for the lecture-class, he and his colleague on some special occasions began at seven in the morning and worked continuously until one o'clock.

Turner had the affectionate esteem of the students, and disorder was practically unknown. At the slightest disturbance Turner paused and stared sternly at the spot. The students knew instinctively that he would never appeal to the class, but that if necessary he would note the guilty man and that severe measures would follow. Any bad members of the class did not presume, because they knew him; but at a graduation after he became Principal, two youths who did not know him behaved disgracefully and were expelled. His predecessor had been too lenient, and they had come to think that any conduct would be forgiven.

When Turner arrived in Edinburgh in 1854 to begin his splendid and many-sided career as teacher, man of science, man of affairs, and administrator, he came under the spell of Goodsir as regards teaching and research, and soon made like-minded friends. T. Spencer Cobbold was Conservator of the Anatomical Museum under Goodsir, and published papers on the Anatomy of the Giraffe, Trematode Worms, etc. Lister, born in 1827, came to Edinburgh the year before Turner to have a look at Professor Syme's work, took the place of his infirmary resident, Dr Dewar (called away by his father's illness), married Syme's daughter, and remained in Edinburgh until appointed to the Regius Chair of Surgery in Glasgow. In 1859 Lister and Turner published a joint research. Turner's friend, J. Matthews Duncan, published a paper on the Os Sacrum in 1855.

From the time that he joined the University of Edinburgh until the end

of his life Turner was occupied with research connected with physiology and anatomy in all its branches, descriptive or histological, healthy or pathological, human or comparative, ethnological and teratological—his studies of crania and in anthropology being especially remarkable.

A list (prepared by himself) of 276 writings, with the addition of his last communication to this Society on 5th July 1915, entitled "A Contribution to the Craniology of the People of Scotland: Part II, Prehistoric, Descriptive, and Ethnographical," is appended. The classification is as follows:—

Human Anatomy and Physiology	77
Comparative Anatomy and Zoology	104
Pathological Anatomy	15
Anthropology	51
General Addresses, Reviews, etc.	26
In Memoriam	4
	<hr/>
	277

His researches are characterised by fullness and accuracy of observation, precision of statement, and very cautious deduction. Consequently they will continue to be sources of trustworthy information.

When Turner applied for the chair many testimonies of the utility of his researches were given by men engaged in the practice of medicine, as well as by cultivators of science. Robert Barnes found his contributions to the knowledge of abnormal conditions of the uterus and ovaries of remarkable value. Hughlings Jackson said: "By his work some of the driest details of human anatomy have become new points of departure." "He has made surgery safer, pathology clearer, and the method of studying the relations of mind to brain more definite and satisfactory." William Sharpey acknowledged his services to anatomy, and Lionel S. Beale voiced the appreciation of physiologists.

Perhaps the papers most welcomed by medical men were his studies of the brain from 1866 onwards for some twenty years. The paper in the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, 1874, on "The Relation of the Cerebrum to the Outer Surface of the Skull and Head," was a pioneer communication on the subject. Among other papers important to medicine were that on "A System of Anastomosing Arteries connecting the Visceral and Parietal Branches of the Abdominal Aorta," *Brit. and Foreign Med.-Chirurg. Review*, July 1863, and that on "A Supplementary System of Nutrient Arteries for the Lungs," *Reports British Assoc. Advance. Science, Bath*, p. 129, 1863. One of his most outstanding studies, important alike

to science and to practical medicine, which let light into dark places, was that of placentation, begun in 1870, when he published a paper in the *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, "On the Gravid Uterus and on the Arrangement of the Foetal Membrane in the Cetacea." He lectured on the comparative anatomy of the placenta in the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1875 and 1876, and returned to the subject from time to time up to 1889.

The anatomy of whales had fascinated the Edinburgh anatomists Knox, John Goodsir, and John Struthers, afterwards Sir John Struthers of Aberdeen. Turner fell a victim to the same fascination in 1860, and continued to write papers on the Cetacea until 1914. He began with a paper in our *Transactions* on the thyroid gland in the Cetacea, with observations on the relations of the thymus to the thyroid in these and some other mammals. Goodsir had a good collection of cetacean specimens in the Anatomical Museum, but Turner increased this very largely, and induced Sir John Struthers to take a benevolent interest in the museum, and especially in the cetacean bones, when he returned to Edinburgh from Aberdeen after he retired from his chair of anatomy.

The great Finner whale stranded at Longniddry in 1869 was undoubtedly the largest subject ever dissected by Turner, and tested the ardour of himself and of his pupil and colleague in the work, Dr James Foulis. This whale, a pregnant female, 78 feet 9 inches in length, was left on the beach for inspection by the public, who were conveyed by special trains; and when the stench of putrefaction became so grievous that ordinary persons could not approach the carcass, it was towed across the Firth to have the blubber removed and other parts turned into money. It was reported that at Longniddry an incautious visitor fell into the tongue when walking on a lower jaw-bone. Turner and Foulis pursued the whale to Kirkcaldy and accomplished feats of observation and dissection, with the result that Foulis had to part with his suit of clothes, and Turner, although more cautious, found that his footprints were an object of great interest to all dogs that crossed his track.

There are papers about the Longniddry whale in the *Proceedings* and *Transactions* of this Society of 1869 and 1870, and Turner was awarded the Neill Prize in 1871 for this investigation. The sternum and ossa innominata are described in the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, 1870.

Turner made his *début* as a craniologist with papers before the British Association Newcastle-on-Tyne meeting in 1863, and these papers, together with papers in our *Proceedings* and in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* for 1864 and 1865, show that he had accepted the doctrines of Darwin notwithstanding the opposition of Owen and

Goodsir. He began and continued to collect and examine crania from this time. Ancient and modern skulls of every race and from every country, skulls normal and skulls deformed, were all welcome. Former pupils and foreign friends all helped. In one instance a captain and part owner of a steamer got himself into danger in the East when trying to dig up skulls for Turner. At the time of Turner's death he had a number of skulls in the room reserved for him in the Anatomical Department of the University which he had not yet examined. Our *Transactions* are enriched by many papers from his pen on the races of mankind and their craniology. In 1904 he was awarded the Keith Prize for his various memoirs on the craniology of the peoples of Scotland and of India. He edited the second edition in 1863 and the third edition in 1870 of Paget's *Pathology*, revising the pathological while Sir James Paget revised the clinical portion.

Turner prepared an *Atlas of Human Anatomy and Physiology*, with handbook, in 1857, and wrote the article "Anatomy" for the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, ninth edition. This well-balanced article was expanded into *Introduction to Human Anatomy, including the Anatomy of the Tissues*, 1877. An early copy was sent to Oliver Wendell Holmes, who proved that he had read it by sending back a list of errata.

He collected and edited the *Anatomical Memoirs of Professor John Goodsir, F.R.S.*, in two volumes, Edinburgh, 1868. He also arranged and edited the *Scientific Papers and Addresses by Professor George Rolleston, F.R.S.*, two volumes, Oxford, 1874.

In April 1866 Turner became examiner in anatomy for the University of London; and in the autumn of the same year he joined the late Professor G. M. Humphry of Cambridge, also a St Bartholomew's man, in founding the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, an important quarterly magazine, which they edited. Some twenty years later Humphry and Turner helped the late Mr C. B. Lockwood, another St Bartholomew's man, to found the Anatomical Society.

A great many of Turner's papers, especially of those on human anatomy, appeared in the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*; but papers appeared in other magazines, and in reports such as those of the *Challenger* and the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Physical Society in 1858, and had the unique distinction of holding the office of President for four successive years, 1863-1867. Besides the presidential address in 1888, vol. x, and a paper by George Logan and W. T., 1867, there are seven papers by him in the *Proceedings* of that Society, of which he became President for a second time, 1885 to 1888.

Next to the University of Edinburgh the Royal Society of Edinburgh held a place near his heart, and of his more important contributions to science thirty-nine are to be found in its *Proceedings* and twenty-four in the *Transactions*. He was elected a Fellow on 4th February 1861, became a Member of Council in 1866, and succeeded Professor Allman as one of the Secretaries to the Ordinary Meetings in 1869. This office he held for twenty-two years, and was associated in it first with Professor Tait and then with Professor Crum Brown. In 1891 he was elected a Vice-President of the Society, and served for ten years, Dr Ramsay H. Traquair taking his place as Secretary.

When the office of President became vacant by the lamented death of Lord Kelvin, the Fellows turned to Sir William Turner, who was elected President in 1908. He occupied the position for five years, and became a permanent Member of Council on retiring. He made an admirable President both at the Council board and at the meetings of the Society.

During the greater part of his fifty-five years as a Fellow he held office in the Society, but one of his most important services was rendered at a critical time before he became President, during the negotiations with the Government when the Society had to remove from the Royal Institution buildings. He loyally supported the late Professor Chrystal in applying for the new rooms in George Street, and it was his speech that convinced the Secretary for Scotland of the justice and weight of the claim made by the Society.

His presidential address on the occasion of the opening of the new building in George Street, 8th November 1909, "On the Rise of Scientific Study in Scotland," contained an historic sketch of the Society, with lists of the officials from the commencement, and an index, under both authors and subjects, of the communications to the *Transactions* from 1889 to 1908, thus supplementing the index published in 1890.

Turner became a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1877, and contributed papers to the *Proceedings* and *Transactions*. He served on the Council in 1890.

In 1867 the Medical Professors of the University of Edinburgh were nearly all very distinguished men of marked personality, who did not hesitate to express their views, whether about scientific or medical matters or each other, with a freedom and force that led to serious differences at times. Turner managed to keep friends with every one, and his business capacity was soon recognised in the Senate. His master in University politics was Sir Robert Christison, Bart., who not only imbued him with his own attachment to the interests of the University, but helped to create

in him a certain jealousy of the Extra-mural Medical School, so that in matters involving the interests of the University and the Extra-mural School Turner became a strong University partisan.

He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1861, and was elected President of the College in October 1882, but served only one year instead of following the usual course of seeking re-election for a second year. The movement for obtaining the patronage of the Royal Colleges for the Extra-mural School had begun, and with his views of the rights and privileges of the University Turner found the position difficult.

He served as Dean of the Medical Faculty in the University for some years. In November 1889 he was one of the four Assessors elected by the Senatus to the reconstituted University Court, and sat continuously in the Court for twenty-six years as Assessor or as Principal. His power of clear and cogent statement, intense loyalty to the University, cautious wisdom and experience, gained the confidence and respect of the members of the Court, and it is not too much to say that at the end he was regarded by his colleagues with the warmest affection as well as with the reverence due to his age and office.

In 1873 Turner was sent to the General Medical Council as representative of the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and held the joint seat until 1883, when he was replaced by Sir John Struthers and was out of the Council for three years. He was then returned as representative of the University of Edinburgh under the Medical Act of 1886, and held office until his resignation in 1905. On the death of Sir Richard Quain in 1898 Turner became President, and retained the position until he resigned it in November 1904. By the special request of Sir Donald MacAlister, his successor in the chair, he remained as an ordinary Member of Council for another year. Many important decisions were taken on his initiative, and many of the reports were drafted by his hand. Undoubtedly he greatly influenced his colleagues by his force of character and clear contributions to the discussions, although he approached educational questions from the Scottish point of view, in which he believed.

When he became President the finances of the Council were unsatisfactory, and criticism of the Council and its officers was severe, and probably some of it was deserved. Reforms had to be carried through in the face of opposition, and Sir Donald MacAlister gives the credit for success to Sir William's manifest fairness and firmness, his grasp of executive detail, and his power of evoking loyal support, and says that his tact, good feeling, and surety of judgment never failed.

In 1893 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He served as an influential member of the Royal Commission, 1881-82, on the Medical Acts. He was President of the Anthropological Section of the British Association, and later of the British Association itself in 1900.

Sir William Turner was associated throughout with the movement which led to the erection of the New Medical School of the University and of the M'Ewan Hall. The first meeting took place in 1869, and the first subscription list was opened 6th April 1874. The amount required to meet the first estimates was obtained or within sight, when it was found that owing to a rapid increase in the number of students the original estimates must be enlarged. Principal Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., the dominating spirit of the movement, felt the difficulty of applying to an exhausted public, but held a meeting in 1883, when it was resolved to launch a Tercentenary appeal. The Tercentenary Festival was celebrated in April 1884, and then Professor Turner and Mr M'Ewan, M.P., took the chief burden on themselves and tramped city and country soliciting subscriptions. Principal Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., died in December 1884, and Turner took his place as Chairman of the Acting Committee. The New Buildings were handed over by the Acting Committee to the Senatus in October 1886.

During their efforts Mr M'Ewan and Sir William Turner felt the hopelessness of raising money for a University Hall, and Mr M'Ewan resolved to present one. The first step consisted in the appointment of Mr M'Ewan, Principal Sir William Muir, Professor Sir William Turner, and Mr John Christison, W.S., as trustees, who obtained the Edinburgh University Extension Act, 1886, and began the erection of the Hall in January 1889. Mr M'Ewan, on behalf of the trustees, handed it over to the Chancellor, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, on behalf of the University, 3rd December 1897. The chief burden and responsibility as a trustee naturally fell upon Turner.

The late Mr John Barton, Convener of Trades, whose firm was contractor for the plumbing work of the New Buildings, informed the writer that the contractors greatly preferred to work for Turner. He knew his own mind, there was no dubiety about his instructions, and he could understand and allow for things that went wrong.

Mr Carnegie's trust-deed for the Universities of Scotland is dated 7th June 1901, and Sir William Turner (who had been knighted in 1886 and made K.C.B. in 1901) used his influence so that the new income might be applied to the best advantage.

As he retired from the Anatomical Chair in 1903, after being for some fifty years the outstanding figure in British anatomy, in order to become Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, his influence and leisure for administrative work were increased. He became Joint-Chairman of the University Library Committee, and filled other minor posts. It was in his Principalship that the new Engineering Department was completed at High School Yards in 1905-6, and that part of the Surgical Hospital of the Old Infirmary was transformed into a new Department for Natural Philosophy in 1907. It was sometimes said that his policy was not sufficiently progressive, but it was only limited by the apparent funds available, and Turner's cautious estimate has proved of value in war time. During his Principalship notable improvements were made on the medical and scientific side, new groups for graduation arranged in the Arts curricula, the three-term session introduced, the tutorial system established, and the number of lectureships increased.

Sir William Turner acted along with the late Mr Middleton Rettie, Emeritus-Professor Chiene, C.B., and Emeritus-Professor M'Kendrick as a trustee on the Mary Dick Trust, and this doubtless quickened a desire to affiliate the Royal Dick Veterinary College to the University. He succeeded in carrying out a working arrangement, and had the satisfaction of seeing the institution of the degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Science in this important branch of applied science.

Undoubtedly Principal Sir William Turner was fond of his own way, and usually got it up to the last; but his wisdom was such that the University must always look back upon his term of office as one of the notable periods of its history and regard his whole long and loyal service with gratitude.

Many honours besides those already mentioned came to Sir William Turner. He received the freedom of the city of Edinburgh in December 1909; the Universities of Dublin and of Cambridge conferred the degree of D.Sc.; the Universities of Glasgow, St Andrews, Aberdeen, and Montreal all enrolled him as LL.D.; Oxford, Toronto, and Durham called him to be D.C.L. He was an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy and of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh; Honorary Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of Edinburgh; Foreign Member of the Anthropological Societies of Paris, Rome, and Brussels; Corresponding Member of the Anthropological Society and Royal Prussian Academy, Berlin; Knight of the Royal Prussian Order Pour le Mérite, 1912.

Early in 1895 his portrait was painted by the late Sir George Reid, President of the Royal Scottish Academy, for presentation by subscribers, and is now a family heirloom. Another portrait of Sir William Turner,

which hangs in the University Senate Room, was painted by Sir James Guthrie, President of the Royal Scottish Academy, and was presented by Sir R. Finlay on behalf of the subscribers and accepted by The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour on behalf of the University 13th February 1913.

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